

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Orphan movie is one of the most amazing American horror film ever produced. The screenplay of this film was created by David Leslie Johnson based on the story of Alex Mace. This American film was starring Issabelle Fuhrman and Academy Award-nominee Vera Farmiga and Golden Globe-nominee Peter Sarsgaard. This film is a big project of two production houses. It was a corporation between Dark Castle Entertainment (produced by Joel Silver and Susan Downey) and Appian Way Production (produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Davisson Killoran). With the running time 123 minutes, this film was released theatrically in the United States on July 24, 2009. Then, it was released on DVD and Blu-ray on October 27, 2009 in the US by Warner Home Video and in the UK on November 27 by Optimum Releasing. (<http://orphan-movie.warnerbros.com>)

This film is directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, a Spanish director. He was born on March 23, 1974 in Barcelona. In the early '90s, Jaume Collet-Serra moved from Barcelona, Spain to Los Angeles to attend film school. After graduating, he began his career as an editor. From there, he moved into directing music videos and then commercials for products such as Playstation, Budweiser, Mastercard, Miller Lite, Pontiac, Smirnoff Ice, Renault, JT Roots (starring Brad Pitt) and 7UP. Collet-Serra is most famous for the 2005 remake

of House of Wax starring Chad Michael Murray, Elisha Cuthbert and Paris Hilton, and 2009's Orphan. He directed the dark castle drama-thriller The Unknown White Male which stars Frank Langella, Liam Neeson, January Jones and Diane Kruger.

That makes this film as the amazing horror is the film's content, depicting a murderous adopted person. This film centers on a couple, Kate and John Coleman, who after the death of their unborn child, adopt a mysterious 9-year old girl named Esther from the local orphanage. In the story, Kate (Vera Farmiga) and John (Peter Sarsgaard) are experiencing strains in their marriage after Kate's third child was stillborn. Their marriage is falling apart.

Almost as soon as they welcome Esther (Issabelle Fuhrman) into their home, many series of events begins to unfold. It makes Kate believe that there's something wrong with Esther. Esther who seemingly angelic little girl is not what she appear to be. She appears normal and sweet, but quickly turns violent and cruel, especially toward her mother. Concerned for the safety of her family, Kate tries to get John and other to see the past of Esther. Kate is told that Esther came from has no record of her ever being there.

In the end, Kate finds out Esther's shocking secret. Kate learns that Esther was housed at a mental institution in Estonia called the Saarne Institute. Kate gets information from Dr. Varava (Karel Roden), the director of Saarne Institute, that Esther isn't a 9-year-old girl at all, but actually she is a 33-year-old woman named Leena Klammer. Esther has hypopituitarism, a disorder that stunted her physical growth. She has spent most of her life posing as a little

girl.

In Saarne Institute, Esther is dangerously psychotic. In her past, she had killed many people brutally, so Kate must do something to save her family from the virulent action of Esther. The content of this film is about depicting a murderous adopted person. The movie Orphan comes directly from this unexamined place in popular culture. Esther's shadowy past includes Eastern Europe (small country named Estonia); she appears normal and sweet, but quickly turns violent and cruel, especially toward her mother.

For the setting of this film, was shot in Canada, in the cities of Toronto, Port Hope and Montreal. Orphan movie was produced by 3 languages; English, America, and Estonian. Critical reaction from the market has been mixed, with the film earning a rating of 55 % (43% among the Top Critics). Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times gave Orphan 3½ stars out of 4, writing: "You want a good horror film about a child from hell, you got one". Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle also gave a positive review, saying: "Orphan provides everything you might expect in a psycho-child thriller, but with such excess and exuberance that it still has the power to surprise."

With the gross revenue \$76,699,632 , Orphan was the fourth film at the box office for its opening weekend, making \$ 12.77 million total behind G-Force, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and The Ugly Truth respectively. As of September 9, 2009 the film has grossed a total of \$53,243,687.

There are many responses, some positive and some negative for this film. Among positive responses come from the audiences, for example Steph Sharples said “Good review for this film which has twist ending that is very unpredictable.” Other response comes from Dr. Jane Aronson who offers reactions to special screening of *Orphan*. He said “It is very nice that Hollywood can produce such a horrific and violent film portraying a vulnerable orphaned child as a demonic.” (http://www.orphan_review.com)

Besides the good responses, *Orphan* also gains some protest. Among negative response comes from Roger Ebert. He said “While it has moments of dark humor and the requisite scares, *Orphan* fails to build on its interesting premise and degenerates into formulaic, sleazy horror/thriller.” Beside that, there are many complains come to Warner Bros about the negative light *Orphan* potentially shines on adoptions and have urged a boycott. (http://www.orphan_review.com)

Orphan is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is from the story of *Orphan* has the uncommon phenomena. That is the phenomena that happen to Esther with her personality. The character of Esther has the sadistic personality under her innocent face. Esther has many secrets that can make the shocking of audiences. She appears normal and sweet, but quickly turns violent and cruel, especially toward her mother. In this movie, the audience can see the beautiful acting of Isabelle Fuhrman in playing as Esther. The content of this film is about depicting a murderous adopted person.

The second aspect is the theme of the movie. After watching this film, we can conclude that *Orphan* has an interesting theme. The main message that the director wants to deliver to the audiences is that sadism may be hidden behind innocent appearance. Many scenes in this film presenting many shocking secret from the side of Esther's personality. This movie can gives a horror sensation because of brutal action which done by Esther in killing her victims.

The third aspect is from the casting and the cast of the movie. This film was shot in Canada, in the cities of Toronto, Port Hope, and Montreal. For the cast of this movie, starring the famous actress and actor like Academy Award-nominee Vera Farmiga and Golden Globe-nominee Peter Sarsgaard, introducing Isabelle Fuhrman, CCH Pounder , Jimmy Bennett, Margo Martindale, Aryana Engineer, Rosemary Dunsmore, Jamie Young, Lorry Ayers, Brendan Wall, Genelle Williams, Mustafa Abdelkarim, Genelle Williams, and Karel Roden. In this case, the acting made by Isabelle Fuhrman is very success in building the character of Esther as the sadistic person, who has the sadistic and brutally personality under her innocent face. The cast, for the most part, deliver all-around solid performances. Some characters are typecast, such as Kate being the "scapegoat that nobody believes" and John as the "character without a clue". At least Vera Farmiga's character is believable; Peter Sarsgaard's character just suffers from the typical horror film idiot syndrome, and it's really a shame when compared to how fleshed out the others are.

The last, from its visualization aspect. *Orphan* has a good visualization uses special screening of horror. Jaume Collet-Serra can make the audience feel enthusiastic with this horror movie. *Orphan* can produce such a shocking and horror sensation to the audiences because of the crime action which done by Esther in killing her victims brutally, portraying her as a demonic murderer.

Most interesting aspect from this film is the phenomena of sadism that happen to major character, Esther. In *Orphan*, Esther has a socking secret under her innocent face. She has a very cruel and sadistic personality. She likes to hurt even kill people who are unwelcome of her. In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study on the personality aspect of the main character, Esther.

Sadistic personality disorder is a pervasive pattern of cruel, demeaning, and aggressive behavior which indicates the existence of deep-seated contempt for other people and an utter lack of empathy. (<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/sadistic-personality-disorder.html>)

Based on phenomenon above, the writer is interested to choose *Orphan* movie as the object of study. Considering the thing above, the researcher wants to conduct a further research entitled **SADISTIC INNOCENCE IN JAUME COLLET-SERRA'S *ORPHAN* (2009): A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature Review

In this research, the writer does not find any research using the psychoanalytic or the other approach in Orphan movie. In the contrary the writer finds two sources those are an essay and an article.

The first writer about Orphan is conducted by Enio Chiola (2009), entitled “Toward the Ethical Treatment of Horror Film: Orphan (Film Review)”. In this journal he writes this film is not an exercise in reality representation in film—art imitating life, etc. The rest of the film is a careful interactive struggle between mother and daughter as it relates to the Electra complex, with one glaring difference—Kate refuses to be victimized by the absurdity of historical psychiatric pathologization of femininity as ostensibly hysteria, and with every turn struggles against her confinement. Near the end of the film she decides to give up on an aspiration of saving her marriage, considering that even after it is clear Esther started the fire, which almost cost Danny his life, John still refuses to admit her involvement. Instead Kate declares her desire to protect her children and her willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure her continued mothering of them. Every plot device and thematic element is a deliberate, well-planned intricate layer in this film.

The second writer is conducted by Mithaven (2009). On his journal he takes adoption as his theme. Adoption can be a frightening new experience for both the parents and the child being adopted. But what happens when the newest addition to the family harbors a psychotic personality and an equally twisted secret? Orphan, revolves around the adoption of Esther, a disturbing

little girl whose violent nature threatens to destroy the family that has taken her in. While obvious clichés about children from Hell are abound, a well-written script, bizarre yet believable plot twist, and stellar performances from its child actors make it a highly enjoyable horror film to watch.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Enio Chiola writes about mother struggle in his film review. The rest of the film is a careful interactive struggle between mother and daughter. It discusses about the absurdity of historical psychiatric pathologization of femininity and with every turn struggles, while the writer means to analyze Orphan movie based on Psychoanalytic perspective. The writer analyzes the phenomena of sadism that happen to Esther in Jaume Collet Serra's Orphan movie (2009) by using Psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this study is "How the psychological phenomenon of sadism is reflected in Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan*".

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Isabelle Fuhrman as one of the major character in *Orphan* movie based on psychoanalytic perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan* movie based on its structural elements
2. To analyze Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan* movie based on Psychoanalytic perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

By analyzing Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan*, there are two benefits can be gained as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan*. It is expected to give useful information about this movie analyzed by Psychoanalytic perspective. Particularly Psychoanalytic study on literature about sadistic innocence.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to give an additional contribution on understanding the major character in *Orphan* are viewed by Psychoanalytic approach-Sigmund Freud.

G. Research Method

The methods that will be used in the research are :

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan*, the researcher will use the qualitative research in the form of literary work. Statistic is not necessary in examining and exploring the facts in qualitative research. Therefore it will not require any calculation and enumeration.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

Type of the data in this research paper is text and images of this movie, which consist of words, phrases and sentences.

b. The Data Source

In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data, there are:

1) Primary Data Sources

Primary data source is the movie itself, *Orphan* by Jaume Collet-Serra.

2) Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data sources are the biography of the author, the websites in the internet about the movie *Orphan* and other resources that support to analyze.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods will be used by the researcher for collecting the data are note taking and image capturing. There will be some techniques of data collection as follows :

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud theory of Psychoanalysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis data.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis in this study is using the descriptive analysis, in which the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the movie and the Psychoanalytic perspective of the story.

H. Research Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters, there are chapter I as introduction. It consists of the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory about Psychoanalytic perspective. Chapter III consists of structural analysis of the movie which includes character and characterization,

plot, point of view, setting and theme. Chapter IV consists of analysis based on Psychoanalytic perspective. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion.